IN THE CLAIM

1. (original) In a disc drive comprising at least one disc having a plurality of addressable sectors arranged in a plurality of tracks on a surface of the disc, the sectors being categorised into zones such that data is capable of being written to and read from different zones at different rates, a method of storing information on defective sectors comprising steps of:

(a) sorting defective sectors by zone;

(b) defining a cluster comprising at least one defective sector;

(c) selecting one sector from the cluster to be a reference sector;

(d) defining parameters with reference to the reference sector, the parameters describing the shape and size of the cluster;

(e) storing the parameters with an address of the reference sector and

(f) performing the steps (b) to (e) separately for each zone.

2. (original) A method of Claim I wherein the defining step (b) further comprises a step of including at least one non-defective sector in the cluster.

3. (original) A method of Claim 1 wherein the selecting step (c) includes selecting the sector with the smallest address to be the reference sector.

4. (original) A method of Claim 1 wherein the selecting step (c) includes selecting the sector with the largest address to be the reference sector.

5. (original) A method of Claim 1 wherein the defining step (d) further includes defining a scratch parameter characterizing the number of tracks covered by the cluster.

6. (original) A method of Claim 1 wherein the defining step (d) further includes defining a span parameter characterizing the number of sectors covered by the cluster along each track.

7. (currently amended) A method of Claim I wherein the defining step (d) further includes defining an angle parameter characterizing the ~~angluar~~ angular deviation of a side of the cluster from a reference line intersecting the reference sector.

8. (original) A method of Claim 1 further comprising defining a radial line to be the reference line.

9. (new) A method comprising steps of:

(a) defining a cluster comprising at least one defective location;

(b) selecting one location from the cluster to be a reference location;

(c) defining parameters with reference to the reference location; and

(d) storing the parameters with an address of the reference location.

10. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein the parameters are stored in a storage apparatus.

11. (new) The method of claim 9 wherein the locations are sectors.

12. (new) The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

sorting a plurality of defective locations into zones; and

performing steps a-d for each zone.

13. (new) A method comprising the steps of:

defining a cluster comprising at least one defective sector;

defining parameters that describe the shape and size of the cluster;

storing the parameters in a peripheral device.